

Ordinance No. 2021-4658

An ordinance of the City of Sanford, Florida, relating to the redistricting of City Commission districts; providing for legislative findings and intent; providing for new City Commission districts and the adoption of a map of City Commission districts; providing for implementing administrative actions; providing for conflicts; providing for a savings provision; providing for codification; providing for severability and providing for an effective date.

Whereas, Section 6.07 of the *City Charter of the City of Sanford* relates to City Commission districts and redistricting and provides as follows:

Section 6.07. - City Commission Districts and Redistricting.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter the Mayor shall represent the City as a whole and be elected by electors throughout the City. Each City Commissioner shall represent a single City Commission district, shall actually physically reside in the district for which they seek office from the date of qualification for office until the expiration of the term of office for which elected and shall be elected solely by the voters of that district.

(b) There shall be a number of City Commission districts, either four (4) or six (6) in number, as determined by ordinance enacted by the City Commission, that shall be established, defined and geographically described areas of the City as defined by ordinances relating to City Commission redistricting as required by this Charter, general law and constitutional principles. Each district shall be formed from compact contiguous territory with the boundary lines following the centers of streets to the extent practicable. Due consideration shall be given to maintaining the geographical integrity of neighborhoods and developments within the individual districts. City Commission district lines shall be constructed so as to comply with the constitutional principles of equal and effective representation required by applicable State and Federal guidelines. The City Commission shall give due consideration to the multiple constitutional principles involved in the electoral process and shall give due regard for the opportunity of minority representation on the City Commission as a part of the redistricting process in compliance with applicable State and Federal constitutional standards.

(c) An incumbent Commissioner's seat number may change due to the realignment process occurring during redistricting. However, no incumbent Commissioner shall have a term of office cut short by the adoption of a redistricting plan.

(d) The City Commission may modify City Commission districts by the enactment of a successor ordinance under such processes, procedures and redistricting committees and/or consultants the City Commission may deem to be desirable. The City Commission shall begin the initiation of a redistricting process for City Commission districts within thirty (30) days after the receipt of the official Decennial Census data every ten (10) years so as to finalize the redistricting process one hundred fifty (150) days in advance of the first date to qualify for the next regular City election. In the event the redistricting process is not completed prior to said one hundred fifty (150) day advance period, the City Commission shall accomplish the redistricting process as soon as is reasonably possible thereafter. The official Decennial Census data shall be the authoritative source for demographical data used in reconstituting City Commission districts in compliance with applicable State and Federal standards.

; and

Whereas, Section 6.07 of the *City Charter of the City of Sanford*, accordingly, requires the City Commission to redesignate the boundaries of each district after each decennial census conducted by the United States Government; and

Whereas, the redistricting effort of the City of Sanford is a requirement of the constitutional principles of democracy which govern our American system of government and which provides that we citizens of the United States, as a people, choose (elect) our fellow citizens to assist us with the ownership and operation of our government; and

Whereas, John Adams stated in *Thoughts on Government* (1776) as follows:

"The principal difficulty lies, and the greatest care should be employed in constituting this representative assembly. It should be in miniature an exact portrait of the people at large. It should think, feel, reason and act

like them. That it may be the interest of the assembly to do strict justice at all times, it should be an equal representation, or, in other words, equal interests among the people should have equal interests in it. Great care should be taken to effect this, and to prevent unfair, partial and corrupt elections."

; and

Whereas, in order to govern ourselves, we organize ourselves into geographical areas (electoral districts) based on population statistics and other legal principles as set forth in controlling law and we use "voter districts" to determine where we vote, which positions we vote for and who we citizens, as a people, wish to represent us; and

Whereas, City Commission of the City of Sanford has used the 2020 U.S. Census population numbers in conjunction with mandatory and other lawful criteria in determining the construction of City Commission of the City of Sanford district boundaries that will be used for City elections for the next 10 years, 2022-2031; and

Whereas, the City Commission of the City of Sanford determined that it would act in conjunction with City staff to meet and discern the views of the public and to make any necessary or desirable changes to the boundaries of the City Commission districts based on the 2020 census; and

Whereas, the City Commission of the City of Sanford recognized the paramount importance of redistricting in the City's effort to comply with the "one person-one vote" principle as well as other constitutional principles that may be applicable to the City of Sanford; and

Whereas, the City Commission of the City of Sanford found that the

mandatory redistricting criteria that would be used in the redistricting process included the following:

1. equal population (making voter districts, as near equal population as possible);
2. compactness (making voter district shapes as closely packed as possible);
3. contiguity (making voter districts physically encompassed/connected, which may include spanning water); and
4. avoidance of split U.S. Census Blocks (not dividing the smallest geographic unit of census data when forming districts.); and

Whereas, the City Commission of the City of Sanford found that the 2021 redistricting plan should, if possible:

1. avoid splits of voting precincts between the City Commission, County Commission, School Board, State legislative and Congressional election districts;
2. maximize voter convenience and the effective administration of elections;
3. preserve communities of interest;
4. consider the importance of voter turnout for Citywide elections;
5. preserve, to the extent possible, the shape of existing districts;
6. protect incumbents and avoid pairing of incumbents in order to preserve the sanctity of prior voter choices and electoral decisions;
7. ensure political fairness or competitiveness; and
8. provide for the effective administration of elections; and

Whereas, the City Commission of the City of Sanford expressed its intent to adopt a redistricting plan such that the four City Commission districts will continue to be contiguous territories as nearly equal in population as practicable while taking into consideration the demographics of the City, the geography of the neighborhoods, existing precinct lines and minority population interests; and

Whereas, the City Commission of the City of Sanford expressed a desire that the redistricting process be conducted in an open, public and fair forum in which all Sanford residents have a right to observe and participate; and

Whereas, based upon the foregoing, the City Commission has reviewed alternative and selected a redistricting map; and

Whereas, the City Commission has determined to adopt the map and redistricting plan for the City of Sanford as set forth herein.

Now, Therefore, Be It Enacted By The People Of The City Of Sanford, Florida:

Section 1. Legislative Findings And Intent.

The legislative findings and intent of this Ordinance are as set forth in the recitals (whereas clauses) to this Ordinance.

Section 2. Redistricting Plan And Map Adoption.

(a). The City Commission hereby adopts for the electoral processes of the City of Sanford the City Commission districts as set forth in Exhibit "A" to this Ordinance which Exhibit is incorporated herein by this reference thereto as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

(b). The City Commission hereby adopts for the electoral processes of the City of Sanford the City Commission districts map as set forth in Exhibit "B" to this Ordinance which Exhibit is incorporated herein by this reference thereto as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

Section 3. Implementing Administrative Actions.

The City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney are hereby authorized and directed to implement the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Conflicts.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed and the Code codifier is hereby directed to take all actions necessary to implement the provisions of this Ordinance in that regard.

Section 5. Savings.

The prior actions of the City of Sanford relating to electoral processes and procedures and the establishment of City Commission districts, and related matters and processes, are hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 6. Codification.

It is the intention of the City Commission of the City of Sanford, Florida, and it is hereby ordained, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall be codified; provided, however, that sections 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 shall not be codified. Additionally, the code codifier shall have liberal authority to codify the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 7. Severability.

If any section, sentence, phrase, word, or portion of this Ordinance is determined

to be invalid, unlawful or unconstitutional, said determination shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force or effect of any other section, sentence, phrase, word, or portion of this Ordinance not otherwise determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take immediate effect upon enactment.

Passed and adopted this 24th day of January 2022.

Attest:

City Commission of the City of Sanford



Traci Houchin, MMC, FCRM City Clerk

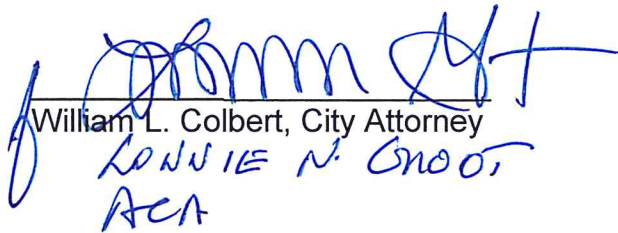
Cathy LoTempio, Deputy City Clerk

For use and reliance of the Sanford City Commission only.

Approved as to form and legality.



Art Woodruff, Mayor



William L. Colbert, City Attorney
LOUISIE N. GROOT
ACA



A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SANFORD REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION WITH REGARD TO A PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN AND MAP AS WELL AS ANOTHER MATTER PERTAINING TO CITY COMMISSION DISTRICTS AND EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE CITY COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Sanford created the Redistricting Committee to formulate recommendations for proposed City Commission districts on the basis of the 2020 Decennial Census and certain provisions of the *Charter of the City of Sanford, Florida* together with any controlling and applicable legal principles; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Sanford appointed members to the Redistricting Committee and assigned the Committee a certain mission with direction, but with the freedom of the Committee to make recommendations as it determined to be necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Redistricting Committee has met in accordance with the direction of the City Commission, evaluated the materials provided to it, considered the applicable law, interacted with City staff and developed a redistricting plan; and

WHEREAS, the meetings of the Redistricting Committee were noticed and open to the public and the Committee welcomed the expression of any and all views from the public and the citizens of the City of Sanford; and

WHEREAS, the Redistricting Committee hereby recommends that the proposed City Commission districts set forth in the Plan and Map adopted by the Committee be enacted by Ordinance of the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Redistricting Committee also expresses its views as to other matters involving potential future actions by the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SANFORD REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE, as follows:

SECTION 1. RECOMMENDATION RELATIVE TO REDISTRICTING:

The Redistricting Committee recommends that the City Commission enact an Ordinance establishing the City Commission districts of the City as set forth in the attached Map1A/Plan 1A all which is incorporated into this Resolution.

SECTION 2. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION:

(a). The Redistricting Committee also recommends that the City Commission stand ready to implement the provisions of Section 6.07 of the *Charter of the City of Sanford, Florida* which relates to City Commission districts and redistricting in terms of expanding the number of City Commission districts to 6 in number if that is the means to ensure equal and effective minority representation within the City and its municipal government.

(b). The Redistricting Committee has reflected upon the history of the City which we love and are very dedicated to. In that vein, the Committee trusts that the City will always adhere to the constitutional standards which guarantee “one person – one vote” and be sensitive to the history of our loved City with regard to voting rights and equal representation of all people.


SECTION 3. EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION:

The Redistricting Committee hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to the City Commission for its appointment and its honor and privilege to serve the citizens of the City of Sanford.

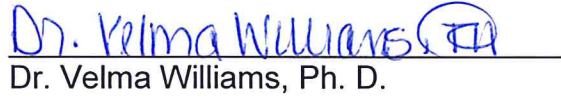
ADOPTED this 5th day of January, 2022.

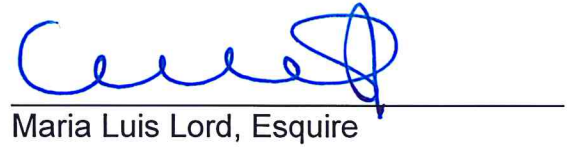
ATTEST:

**CITY OF SANFORD REDISTRICTING
COMMITTEE**


Dan Ping, Vice Chairman


Henry Sweet, Chairman


Dr. Velma Williams, Ph. D.

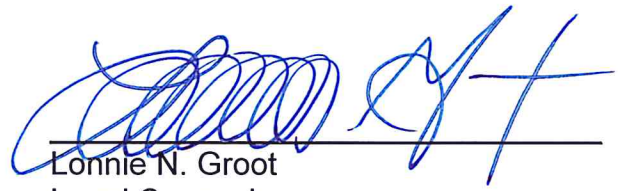

Maria Luis Lord, Esquire


Shane Lillibridge

ATTEST:


Traci Houchin, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk




Lonnie N. Groot
Legal Counsel



CITY OF
SANFORD
FLORIDA



APPROVED

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Item No. 7-B

**CITY COMMISSION MEMORANDUM 22-026
JANUARY 24, 2022 AGENDA**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
PREPARED BY: Traci Houchin, FCRM, MMC, City Clerk
Mike Jones, GIS Analyst, Information Services Division
Lonnie N. Groot, Assistant City Attorney
SUBMITTED BY: Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., ICMA-CM, City Manager
SUBJECT: Second Reading/Enactment of Ordinance No. 2021-4658; Redistricting Of
City Commission Districts; 2020 Decennial Census

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- Unify Downtown & the Waterfront
- Promote the City's Distinct Culture
- Update Regulatory Framework
- Redevelop and Revitalize Disadvantaged Communities

SYNOPSIS:

Ordinance No. 2021-4658 pertaining to the redistricting of City Commission districts has been prepared and is submitted to the City Commission after passage on first reading at the City Commission meeting of January 10, 2022.

FISCAL/STAFFING STATEMENT:

The process of engaging in the periodic redistricting effort is anticipated in the normative course of City business. That being said, the work of the City Clerk, City IT/GIS staff and the City Attorney have saved the City tens of thousands of dollars as this effort has been implemented in house without the procurement of statistician firms or outside legal counsel as has been the practice of other jurisdictions.

In addition, the City has not been involved in litigation of any nature as the City has been cognizant of, and acted in concert with, the legal parameters within which redistricting decisions are to be made. For a contrary example, the last redistricting effort of the Florida Legislature involved the expenditure of millions of dollars in consulting fees and litigation and was extremely contentious and controversial.

Importantly, the redistricting actions of the City in the past, and as to this current effort, have been open and transparent to the public, which has been invited, through meeting notices, to attend and participate in each meeting conducted by the Redistricting Committee and the City Commission.

BACKGROUND:

The detailed contents of prior City Commission agenda memorandums will not be repeated in this City Commission agenda memorandum. Past materials are available upon request.

After the recommendations of the Redistricting Committee appointed by the City Commission were received and evaluated, Ordinance Number 2021-4658, pertaining to the redistricting of City Commission districts, was approved on first reading at the City Commission meeting of January 10, 2022. The City Commission accepted the recommendation of the Redistricting Committee by a vote of 4-1 and moved forward with the Map 1A/Plan 1A proposal for redistricting.

At the City Commission meeting of January 10, 2022, the Honorable Dr. Velma Williams, Ph. D.; Vice Chairman Dan Ping; Shane Lillibridge; and Chairman Henry Sweet of the Redistricting Committee made comments to the City Commission. In addition to the recommendation of Map 1A/Plan 1A, the Redistricting Committee also presented the Resolution, which it adopted which, in part, stated as follows in Section 2

- (a). The Redistricting Committee also recommends that the City Commission stand ready to implement the provisions of Section 6.07 of the Charter of the City of Sanford, Florida which relates to City Commission districts and redistricting in terms of expanding the number of City Commission districts to six in number if that is the means to ensure equal and effective minority representation within the City and its municipal government.
- (b). The Redistricting Committee has reflected upon the history of the City which we love and are very dedicated to. In that vein, the Committee trusts that the City will always adhere to the constitutional standards that guarantee “one person – one vote” and be sensitive to the history of our loved City with regard to voting rights and equal representation of all people.

The City Commission responded favorably to the above recommendation and directed the City Manager to commence, in March 2022, a process to review the City Commission districts and any pertinent provisions of the *City Charter* to address the matters set forth in the Resolution of the Redistricting Committee.

At this particular juncture, Ordinance No. 2021-4658 is now submitted to the City Commission on second reading for enactment. Upon enactment, the City Clerk will commence the time-critical and administratively complex implementation of the forthcoming City Election with the new City Commission districts in place. This will occur in collaboration with the Seminole County Supervisor of Elections.

The City Commission also directed the City Manager to ensure that adequate information was made available to the citizens of the City in written materials that are broadly disseminated and the City’s Web site, etc., advising citizens and the electorate of the new City Commission districts and any effect that the redistricting may have had on their voting and representation on the City Commission.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney has no legal objection to the actions proposed to be taken and will assist the City Clerk in the implementation of the City Election.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends that the City Commission enact Ordinance No. 2021-4658.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

“I move to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-4658 with Map 1A/Plan 1A as the selected redistricting.”

Attachments: (1). Ordinance No. 2021-4658.
(2). Map 1A/Plan 1A materials.
(3). Resolution of Redistricting Committee.